

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Joe Culpepper will preach a sermon titled *Waving Watermelons* using Mark 14:1-15:47.

How do you think of the Triumphal Entry? Do you think of Jesus' coming as your personal Savior? as a Divine King to be worshipped and praised? as a new kind of king ruling with peace and justice? If we do a power analysis of this powerful event, how might Jesus be inviting us to follow him as he heads for the Cross?



After Worship

Adult CE

Journey Groups:
Group A (20's-30's)
Conference Room

Group B (40's-50's)
Room 4

Group C (60's and above)
Room 4

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K-K Grade

2nd-4th Grade

5th-8th Grade

High School

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA



Women's Ministry Event

THIS Saturday, March 23rd from 9:30 - 11:30 am

"Guess who is coming to Breakfast?"

All women are invited to a Women's Ministry Continental Breakfast and a special presentation Saturday, March 23 at the church. No registration required! Questions may be directed to Connie Satchwell or Deb Stenger. Come to listen and reflect during this Lenten season. A reflection entitled "Poetry as Holy Leisure" will be presented by Judith Valente. Judith is an author, journalist, poet, and essayist. Judith began her journalism career as a staff writer at The Washington Post and later reported for The Wall Street Journal in that paper's Chicago and London bureaus. She was twice a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in journalism. She will explore how poems can help us to slow down, to look at daily life with fresh eyes, and find rest and nourishment and for the soul. Come away and rest for a while! Hope to see you there.

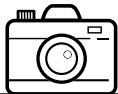
From the Women's Ministry Committee

Celebration of Dorothy Loepp's Contribution to Worship Music

Sunday, April 14th at 3:00 pm

Join us as we sing, listen, and share with each other at MCN at 3:00pm on April 14th. This celebration will be acknowledging the fifty-three years that Dorothy Loepp has contributed to our worship. A reception will follow. We invite contributions of pictures of Dorothy at the organ and piano. Please submit items to the church office by April 1st. Further, in honor of Dorothy, we are establishing a scholarship that will provide funds for those who would like to receive professional lessons on organ or piano. You can read more about the scholarship and how to contribute to this fund [here](#).

From the Worship Commission



Sharing Our Gifts

The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday before and after the service and will be available to view in the following Midweek. If you've not sent in a photo yet, please do so! You can email them to the church office at church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). The theme of this issue is Welcome and Belonging, part of CDC's year-long series on stories that were gathered from the sacred listening process. It includes articles from two congregations about welcoming refugees and becoming an inclusive congregation. We also hear from a hospice chaplain about how she creates sacred spaces of belonging for patients and their families. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table in the coming weeks.



Discipling Commission Request

Are you called to minister to the youngest newcomers in our congregation and their caregivers? Discipling Commission is seeking persons who feel called to minister to young families and infants ages birth to 3 in our nursery. So far, two persons from our congregation have indicated interest! We would like to have 2 additional people. This ministry would be to serve as a host for families that use the infant nursery. You would be present in the nursery to help meet the needs of young parents and provide care for their children when and if they are ready for that and be a companion to whoever is using the space. As a nursery host, you would make sure the space is well-stocked with extra diapers, wipes, snacks, and tissues and that it is comfortable and clean. You would check in with parents to see if they need you to watch their child while they use the restroom or get a drink. Your ministry would include regularly praying for young families and their children in the birth to 3 age range. We would prefer a person or team of persons to take a month at a time to serve in this role to establish continuity and trust. You're invited to prayerfully consider this opportunity. If you'd like to express interest or have questions, please contact Holly Zehr.

From the Discipling Commission

MCN Call for Submissions



- **Theme:** "Behold! I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:5)
- **Deadline:** We will begin accepting submissions starting May 6th (to Pastor Kevin)
- **Format/medium:** visual art (painting, sculpture, photography, video, design, etc.), poetry, musical performance, composition, or others!
- **Description:** This Summer (May 26th - September 1st) we at MCN we will be reflecting on how, with Jesus, we can work toward making all things new, focusing on the renewal of all our basic relationships: with God, with others, with self, and with all of creation. You can learn more about this series [here](#). To aid us in worship and reflection, we are hoping for new artistic works on that theme. Submissions might focus on the renewal of one specific aspect/relationship or simply the idea of renewal more generally. Artists will be encouraged to share briefly about their submission in Sunday worship.
- **Prompts:** *What does renewal look like? What grows from things that have died? What kinds of old things do you enjoy restoring or seeing restored? What does renewal sound like? What words or notes together put you in the mindset of hopeful expectation?*

From the Pastoral Team

Pastoral Team Search Committee

This week the search committee completed the Congregational Information Form (CIF) and emailed it to the CDC Conference Minister, Doug Luginbill. We are searching for two pastors. Each position will be quarter time. Filling out the lengthy form was easier this time around. With Kevin's help we dusted the cobwebs out of the corners of what we had written before, each committee member took a section to edit, and Lydia fact-checked and polished the final copy.

From the Pastoral Team Search Committee: Caleb Augsburg, Shannon Neely, Andy Reeser, Leah Roeschley, Marcia Rossi, Marge Weaver and Pastor Kevin.

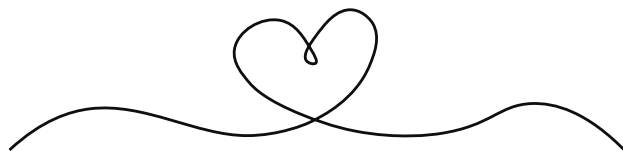
MCC Relief Sale



Our 2024 Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Board wishes to extend special thanks to all who so generously shared their time, talents, prayers, and monetary contributions in support of our 66th Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale. Hundreds of Relief Sale dedicated volunteers helped on sale day as well as weeks and months prior to our March 16 event! Our theme of "66 Years of Bringing Healing and Hope" was well demonstrated as 2,200 enjoyed pancakes and sausage breakfasts as well as good crowds supported our grand auction, which included over 100 quilts, the meat market, and many booth areas. At this time our gross proceeds is approximately \$151,500.00. After we have paid all sale bills, we will know the net income. Again this year eighty percent of the net will be channeled through Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Twenty percent of the net will be distributed to Central Illinois organizations who provide food for the needy. The Sale Board will deeply appreciate your continued partnership, support, and prayers for our Illinois Sale activities, MCC, and the recipients of the funds. Again thanks and God bless all of you!

From Mrs. Ruthie Roth, Sale Executive Secretary

Updated Nursery Schedule



Prayer Requests and Announcements

Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please send Lauren Satchwell your announcements so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true whether in person or livestreaming on YouTube.

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 20

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, March 21

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

Saturday, March 23

9:30am Women's Ministry Event

Sunday, March 24

7:00pm Lent Choir

Tuesday, March 26

3:00m Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 27

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Driscoll family

West Greeter: Rick and Annette Harnish

Welcome Table: Mary Jantze

Ushers: Nancy Fisher and Marianne Israel

Offering Counter: Gail Fisher

Worship Planner & Leader: Steve Benner

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story: Shannon Unzicker

Scripture Reader: Darvis King, Lauren Satchwell, Gerson Cobarrubia, Diane Wiman, & Rita Munkakusi

Technology: Caleb Augspurgen

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery - during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery - during CE: Caroline Roeschley

Preschool Nursery:



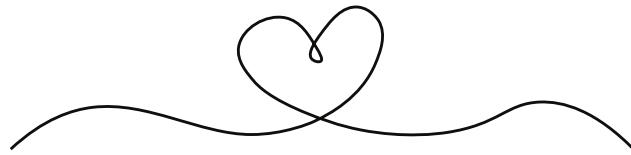
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



Birthdays & Anniversaries



CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN




MENNO HAVEN'S

Spring Work Day

SATURDAY MARCH 23

Possible Projects

- Preparing cabins, bathhouses, boats, pool & outside games for summer
- Trail & lawn cleanup
- Cleaning windows & light lenses
- Reconstructing hayrack trailer
- Firewood splitting
- And more - check out more details at mennohaven.com/work-day



RSVP

mennohaven.com/work-day
or email sheena@mennohaven.com
815-255-4649

MENNO HAVEN DEPENDS ON & GREATLY APPRECIATES THE HARD WORK OF VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU

Making a Safe Church Protection Policy

March 25, 2024 at 7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT on Zoom

[Click here to register.](#)

A webinar hosted by Nancy Kauffmann with Marlene Bogard







107 W. FRONT STREET
BLOOMINGTON, IL

ONE NIGHT ONLY



FRIDAY MARCH 29 8-11 PM
\$8-ADVANCE \$10-DOOR



Jim Pugh - Trombone
Glenn Wilson - Baritone Sax
Leon Lewis-Nicol - Piano
Emma Taylor - Bass
Max Osawa - Drums



Holy Grief & Wholly Beloved

Friday, March 29 (virtual) at 6:30 PM Central

Dear Igbtqia+ kindred, the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) and Wildwood are holding space for you on Good Friday. This will be a simple ritual to lament queer and trans violence, hold loss together, and affirm our belovedness. RSVP to receive the Zoom link.



Oak Flat Ruling

On March 4, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on the case of Apache Stronghold v. U.S., voting 6-5 in favor of allowing the permanent destruction of Oak Flat, a sacred Indigenous site. Apache Stronghold has committed to appealing the ruling to the Supreme Court as a violation of religious freedom. Please keep this in your prayers. You may also show your support by signing [this petition](#). *Shared by Mennonite Church USA.*

Remembering Ashton

Our hearts are shattered by the loss of Ashton Clatterbuck, a 22 year-old trans Mennonite who died by suicide on February 27th. Ashton was a fierce and vibrant activist across many causes and a beloved friend to many. We join with Ashton's family, Community Mennonite Church, and the queer and trans community of Lancaster, PA in mourning this profound loss and in honoring the bold, justice-seeking life that Ash led. A powerful editorial on loving trans kids, written by Ashton's mother Malinda, can be found [here](#). May our grief propel us to action for trans life and flourishing.

From the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests Spring Newsletter. Photo credit: LancasterOnline.



QPR Suicide Prevention Training

Three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide.

Upcoming sessions in March:
Friday, March 1, 11-12
Friday, March 8, 1-2
Friday, March 15, 10-11
Friday, March 22, 11-12
Friday, March 29, 10-11

QPR is a suicide prevention training for participants to be able to recognize the warning signs of suicide and question, persuade, and refer people at risk for suicide for help.

Key components covered in training:

- How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal
- How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide
- The common causes of suicidal behavior
- The warning signs of suicide
- How to get help for someone in crisis

Center for Human Services

530 N Center St., Bloomington

To register, contact Steve Benner (benner@mcchs.org)
or Rose Addo (addo@mcchs.org)

Question.

Persuade.

Refers.

A NEW HORIZON
AT THE CENTER

Question. Persuade. Refer.
Ask A Question, Save A Life®

CENTER

OPENINGS FOR BMC
2024 Kaleidoscope Program Coordinator and
Queer Religious Justice Field Placement!

<p style="text-align: center;">QUEER RELIGIOUS JUSTICE FIELD PLACEMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chicago, IL (In-person or remote)</p> <p>The Queer Religious Justice Field Placement is an opportunity for seminary/divinity school students to support the important work of BMC and to engage in embodied theological praxis, grounded in a queer-led organization & religious justice movement.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KALEIDOSCOPE PROGRAM COORDINATOR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chicago, IL</p> <p>The Kaleidoscope Program Coordinator is a full-time voluntary service position that provides support, resources and programming with and for LGBTQIA+ Mennonites and Brethren. Historically this position has focused on youth, young adults and college campuses.</p>
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See details about Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests' (BMC's) Seminary Field Education Intern [here](#) and Kaleidoscope Program Coordinator (via Mennonite Voluntary Service) [here](#). Who in your life should know about these openings? We're also looking for a CPA who does nonprofit 990s! Our longtime Form 990 preparer retired, and we need a CPA for this annual task moving forward. We'd love to work with someone in our network -- who can you tap?

*From the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests
Spring Newsletter*

Mennonite Men partners to replace olive trees in Palestine

Mennonite Men, in partnership with MennoPIN (Mennonite Palestine Israel Network) is raising \$50,000 to replace 2,500 - 3,000 olive trees to enable Palestinian families to remain on their land. We are also planning a 2025 working and learning trip to Palestine and Israel to plant olive trees, meet Palestinian peacemakers, and connect the land to Jesus' way of peace. Learn more about the olive tree fundraising campaign [here](#). Learn more about the Working & Learning Tour [here](#).

In Case You Missed It

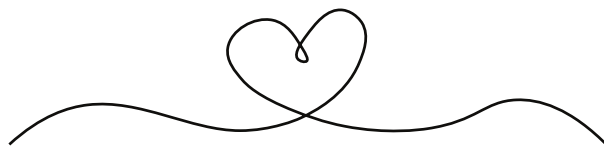


Find a recording of the Hope-Filled *Persistence of Women in Ministry* webinar [In English](#) and [En español](#). Rev. Amy Zimbelman, conference minister of Mountain States Mennonite Conference, and Elizabeth Johnson, Ph.D. candidate at Duke University, shared major (and new) findings from their national study of women in MC USA ministry.



Seed Exchange

MC USA's Climate Justice Ministry is partnering with [The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#) to address the extinction, enslavement and extraction done in the name of Christ on Indigenous lands. One of the Coalition's projects supports Indigenous peacebuilding efforts in the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico. Their Maya partners have requested accompaniment as they seek peace in a situation of land-use conflict with local Mennonite farmers. The Maya have invited Coalition partners to join in their annual Fiesta de Semillas, or Seed Festival, in May! Lend your support to this effort by hosting a seed exchange party in your community! Check out their seed exchange party guide [here](#) to learn how. *By Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, MC USA Climate Justice coordinator*

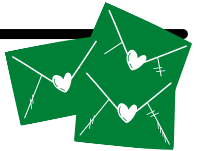


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<u>Building Open:</u>	Standard Hours: Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9AM-11AM and Monday-Friday 1:30PM-3PM.
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org ; 309-452-6622
<u>Rita Munkakusi:</u>	Custodian
<u>Kevin Chupp:</u>	Pastor for Outreach Commission, Worship Commission, Congregational Care Committee, and the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team; kevin@normalmennonite.org
<u>Lynette Miller:</u>	Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions
<u>Ron Ropp:</u>	Pastor for Pastoral Care
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

Our Members in Care Facilities

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS.
SEND A CARD IF THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!



Commissions and Teams Contact List

Items for the Midweek



Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank you!

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commission Meeting Minutes

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Structure Documents
